



CITY COUNCIL

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COUNCIL ADVANCES MAJOR ETHICS REFORM

Today, the Honolulu City Council's Executive Matters committee advanced a major ethics reform measure, introduced by Councilmember Charles K. Djou (Waikiki, East Honolulu), that gives the city ethics commission the ability to issue civil fines.

Councilmember Djou stated, "For too long, Honolulu residents have put up with too many ethics violations by city officials. Giving the Ethics Commission the power to issue actual fines, instead of just letters of reprimand, will help restore public confidence in our government. After so much bad news about repeated investigations and scandals with city officials, this measure is finally a bit of good news on ethics coming from the City Council."

If the full City Council approves Djou's charter amendment, the resolution will be placed on the ballot in November for voter approval. Although Honolulu's Ethics Commission currently lacks the power to issue fines, most municipal governments in the United States give their respective ethics commissions such powers.

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